animals and birds are reported from different parts of the country.

(c) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(c) Analogous to the Centre, the States have also been asked to set up coordination committees of all enforcement agencies so that there is effective cooperation to check poaching and control illegal trade. Staff in National Parks and Sanctuaries are being provided modern arms, wireless equipment, and communication facilities. The Planning Commission is also being pursued to revive the Centrally sponsored scheme in the IX plan for control of poaching and illegal trade, which was earlier transferred to the State Sector in 1992-93. This will enable the Central Government to effectively support the States in their efforts to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(d) to (f) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended in 1991 is a comprehensive legislation which empowers the State Governments/UTs to have better control over the management of wildlife and protection of the endangered species of flora and fauna. The amended Act is a step further towards providing greater protection to wildlife, and has enhanced the punishment for violations. The law also covers commercial trade.

Pollution on Sea Beaches

*70. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing pollution on the sea beaches in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have issued the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 which lays down stipulations to regulate development activities in coastal areas. Separately standards have been notified for disposal of effluents from land based activities which are being implemented through both the State Pollution Control Boards and the Central Pollution Control Board.

[Translation]

Influences of Media Violence on Children

*71. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Media Violence influence kids" appearing in the 'Pioneer', dated March 23, 1998;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the programmes telecast by Doordarshan have adverse effect on people specially on the children;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to evolve a national policy on Television or any legislation for the electronic media including Cable T.V. to check the growing display of violence, crime and obscenity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The news report refers to UNESCO inter cultural study, which was not India-specific, but was global, covering a sample of 5000 pupils in 23 different countries, including India also.

(c) and (d) As of now, Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan) previews all its programmes before they are telecast to ensure that they do not contain any excessive violence or vulgarity which may have adverse effect on the viewers. The preview also ensures that programmes are in accordance with the Programme Code and Advertisement Code. The Government have initiated steps for introducing an Amendment Bill for restoring the provisions of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, which, *inter alia*, envisages establishment of a Broadcasting Council to monitor all programmes telecast on Doordarshan. The Cable Networks are governed by the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994. Sections 5 and 6 of the Act require that the programmes/ advertisements carried on channels which can be received only with the help of specialised gadgets/ decoders, adhere to the prescribed Programme/ Advertisement Codes.

[English]

Functioning of Government Run Schools

*72. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any critical study has been made by the Government on the functioning of Government run schools in urban areas with regard to management, facilities available to the students, teacher-student relationship and causes of drop outs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being contemplated by the Government for the proper functioning of such Schools?